

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 7-11 and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are made to clarify the language and are in response to the objections and the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. Therefore, the Final Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 8, 9 and 11. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not now objectionable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8/4, 8/7/4, 9/4, 9/7/4, 11/4, 11/7/4, 13/11/4 and 13/11/7/4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now clear and definite.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Boylan, stating that Boylan discloses a method for offering specific customer information service to specific customers timely which comprises all of the steps of the present invention.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant would like to first point out that the attribute information on living facilities and equipment used in dwelling houses or office buildings is comprised of an inherent information and status information (see page 13, lines 11-13). The terms "inherent information" of facilities and equipment means date of manufacture, model number, product name, basic function, additional functions, etc. and status information means the present condition, etc. Applicant respectfully submits that the characteristic of Applicant's claims 1 and 4 is that the attribute information comprised of inherent information and status information is monitored at a dwelling management server and automatically transferred to a service server immediately when there occurs a change in the attribute information or at a specific time interval when there occurs no change in the attribute information and is further analyzed at the service server to send back introduction information prepared in advance in reply to the received attribute information.

Namely, the service server in Applicant's application recognizes the time to exchange parts of facilities and equipment or to replace the facilities and equipment by a purchase by

analyzing the attribute information sent from the dwelling management server. Based upon this analysis, introduction information such as maintenance service or discount sales on facilities and equipment can be selected from the introduction information prepared in advance so as to be timely provided to the individual user.

In contrast to Applicant's invention as described above, Applicant respectfully submits that Boylan merely discloses a program guide system comprised of a main facility, a television distribution facility and a user television equipment having a set top box in which a pay-per-view program, etc. is distributed from the television distribution facility to the set top box. When a program is purchased, the set top box sends the purchase information to the television distribution facility to purchase the program and allow it to be seen. Applicant respectfully submits that the set top box of Boylan is incapable of functioning as the dwelling management server which monitors the inherent information and the status information and automatically transfer it to a service server.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Boylan does not teach each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed and claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated by Boylan.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 8 and 9 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Boylan, stating that the structural limitation of a multifunctional terminal unit is met by the set top box 58 and if the prior art discloses a structure capable of performing the intended purpose, it meets the claim.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and Boylan and particularly point out that claim 7 is dependent upon claim 4 and contains each and every limitation thereof. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that while Boylan discloses a set top box which the Examiner alleges is equivalent to the dwelling management server, the set top box does not monitor a remote controller which corresponds to the living facilities and equipment and merely automatically sends the information on a program purchased to the television distribution facility. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that the television distribution facility does not correspond to the service server of Applicant's invention. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the information on program purchased is a response to a pay-per-view program distributed from the television

distribution facility and is entirely different from the attribute information on the living facilities and equipment required by Applicant's invention. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that even if the information on the program purchased is analyzed, such information would not result in the generation of introduction information on maintenance service and discount sales from the television distribution facility.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Boylan neither discloses each and every element of Applicant's element nor suggests them. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-9 are not obvious over Boylan.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10/4 and 10/7/4 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Boylan in view of Mikurak, stating that Boylan includes advertisement which represent a service provided to television equipment users, but is silent as to the particular analysis that is used to determine which service feature or advertisement is provided to the users; Mikurak teaches a means for collecting data and preparing trend reports for use in evaluating the level and quality of service in the service industry; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Boylan to include means for executing a program to automatically prepare a market trend report using the actual result database and sending the report to advertisers in order for the advertisers to determine which advertisements are effective, as suggested by Mikurak.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and Boylan and again point out that in Applicant's opinion the set top box is not the dwelling management server of Applicant's application and the television distribution facility is not the service server of Applicant's invention. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Mikurak and respectfully submits that while Mikurak may teach preparing a market trend investigation report, it does not suggest collecting information via a dwelling management server and a service server and timely providing introduction information on products or services while counting or monitoring the actual result usage of a specified client. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that preparing a market trend investigation report would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that one would timely provide introduction information via the system back to specified clients.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not Applicant's invention but also the combination


suggested by the Examiner would not be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10/4 and 10/7/4 are not obvious over Boylan in view of Mikurak.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, favorably considered, and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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